

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 212125Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7352

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1073

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID BB

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK: DEMAS VISIT LOW KEY

REF: BTN 0987

1 VISIT OF CDB PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE WILLIAM DEMAS LAST WEEK (JUNE 14 AND 15) WAS HANDLED IN VERY LOW KEY. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING THIS WEEK HAS KEPT MOST OF SENIOR STAFF OCCUPIED, BUT AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, DEMAS MET WITH ONLY ACTING PRESIDENT ROY JONES AND BANK SECRETARY AND MANAGED TO EXCHANGE FEW WORDS WITH ONE OR TWO OF SENIOR CDB OFFICERS. DEMAS APPARENTLY SPENT MUCH OF HIS VISIT TO BANK CLOSETED WITH JONES AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER EXACTLY WHAT THEY DISCUSSED. WE KNOW STAFFING WAS DISCUSSED TO SOME EXTENT, INCLUDING DEMAS' DESIRE TO BRING IN ONE OR MORE OF HIS OWN ASSOCIATES TO SENIOR POSITIONS ON TEMPORARY BASIS.

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2. THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS WITHIN BANK THAT DEMAS' VISIT

WAS TOO PERFUNCTORY AND THAT AT LEAST ONE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WITH SENIOR STAFF SHOULD HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED. NEVERTHELESS, EVERYONE RECOGNIZES THAT VISIT DID SERVE TO REASSURE CDB STAFF BY EMPHASIZING DEMAS' COMMITMENT TO BANK AND UNDERLINING FACT THAT ONLY ONE MONTH REMAINS BEFORE HE TAKES OFFICE.

3. APPARENTLY, PART OF REASON FOR BREVITY OF VISIT TO BANK WAS THAT DEMAS HAD OTHER BUSINESS DEMANDS ON HIS TIME. DEMAS ALSO MET AT UWI WITH NEWLY-FORMED WOODING COMMISSION NOW STUDYING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION FOR THE ASSOCIATED STATES AND ALSO WITH GOB TRADE MINISTRY AND BARBADOS MANUFACTURERS ASSN, REGARDING GOB LIST OF ITEMS FOR TREATMENT UNDER U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE THAT DEMAS' TIME AT BANK COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER USED, ESPECIALLY IN ALLOWING FOR SOME SORT OF MEETING WITH SENIOR STAFF. NEVERTHELESS, OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT VISIT WAS USEFUL IN REASSURING BANK STAFF OF SINCERITY OF DEMAS' COMMITMENT.

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30 JUN 2005

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